

## AGENDA ITEM VI-A

### Progress report on the development of a performance and accountability system for Texas public higher education based on *Closing the Gaps*

RECOMMENDATION: No action required

Goals: Participation-Success-Excellence-Research  
The performance and accountability system will be designed with consideration of each of the goals in *Closing the Gaps*.

#### Background Information:

For many years, policy makers have struggled to find a way to establish a meaningful accountability/performance system for higher education. A variety of processes have been in place including financial audits by the State Auditor's Office, legislatively mandated performance measures, regional accreditation requirements, and the performance system component of *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. Performance and accountability in higher education, however, continue to receive attention. The 78th Texas Legislature (2003) charged the Joint Interim Committee to "identify opportunities for legislative and administrative action relating to accountability measures and performance incentives ... that are aligned with the purposes of higher education and that are sensitive to mission differentiation among institutions of higher education." (SB1652). The Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education have also been charged to improve accountability. In consideration of these charges, the Board focused its major policy discussion at the October 2003 meeting on accountability for higher education. The result of that discussion was a directive to staff to bring recommendations for developing a performance and accountability system to the Board at the January or April 2004 meeting.

On January 22, 2004, Governor Perry issued Executive Order RP 31 requiring the Coordinating Board and each institution and system work together to provide "the information necessary to determine the effectiveness and quality of the education students receive at individual institutions" also to provide "... the basis to evaluate the institutions' use of state resources." One week later, at the January 29, 2004, Board meeting, staff provided a progress report on a proposed accountability system utilizing peer institutions and benchmark measures.

Throughout February and March 2003, Coordinating Board staff have worked with University of North Texas System Chancellor Lee Jackson (Chairman of the Texas Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors) in developing an accountability system. In mid-March, the presidents and chancellors participated in a survey to prioritize tentative measures. On March 22, Commissioner Brown and Chancellor Jackson presented an update to the Joint Interim Select Committee on Higher Education.

The April progress report will update the Board on the current efforts related to accountability undertaken by the Joint Interim Select Committee, Coordinating board staff, and representatives of Texas' colleges and universities.